



KOREAN K9
RESCUE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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OUR MISSION

WE ARE A 501(C)(3) DOG RESCUE
CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR
HOMELESS AND MISTREATED DOGS
IN SOUTH KOREA.

A REVIEW OF 2023

As we reflect on the journey of 2023, Korean K9 Rescue remains steadfastly committed to activism and reform and rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming dogs from South Korea and locally. This year, our efforts have been particularly impactful, marked by significant rescue operations and strides toward legislative reforms on the dog meat ban, puppy mill auction houses, and welfare reform.

Our 2023 rescue operations by our team in Korea included multiple large-scale raids against illegal puppy mills and dog slaughterhouses, saving thousands of lives together with our partners and highlighting the dire conditions these animals face. We rescued these dogs and provided them with the necessary medical care and rehabilitation to prepare them for a new life where they were all adopted into loving families across the US.

In addition to our rescue efforts, we have made significant advances in our advocacy for animal welfare. With the support of our community and through partnerships with local organizations,



we've pushed for changes in legislation and public awareness about the inhumane practices of the dog meat trade and the cruelty of puppy mills. Each week that passes, the Korean government moves closer to a final vote on banning the dog meat trade forever.

We also celebrated heartwarming adoption stories and received support through grants and fundraising events, bolstering our capacity to care for more animals effectively and rescue even more needy dogs.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our mission this year. Your continued commitment helps us move closer to a world where dogs in Korea can live free from suffering. We look forward to continuing our work in 2024 and beyond, driven by compassion and the collective effort of our supportive community and rescue partners.



A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we close another year at Korean K9 Rescue, I'm filled with gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose. The challenges we faced in 2023 tested our resolve and deepened our commitment to rescuing, rehabilitating, and re-homing dogs from South Korea. Thanks to your support, we made the most significant strides toward ending the inhumane dog meat trade and improving animal welfare laws for puppy mills and the auction houses that sell them.

This year, we witnessed profound moments of compassion and victory from within Korea. Our team in Korea shut down a notorious dog slaughterhouse in Siheung city, and in the most historic rescue in South Korean history - they helped rescue over 1,400 dogs on Sept 1st, in Hwaseong city shutting down an entire illegal puppy mill, each rescue has been a testament to what we can achieve together. These missions are not just about saving lives; they are about changing the narrative, ensuring a kinder future in Korea for all animals, and pushing for welfare and reform for dogs to not be sold as products for profit and greed.

Our advocacy efforts have been more vigorous than ever. KK9R in Korea have been at the forefront of puppy mill protests, demanding changes in legislation and shining a light on the cruelty. They have rallied for support from industry professionals calling for changes in the puppy mill industry and protesting auction houses to expose the monopoly of greed.



I truly believe with the implementation of Lucy's Law, a new puppy mill bill proposed to the Korean government, we could stop so much suffering caused by the selling of sick and abused dogs for greed. This year alone, three hundred and twenty two adopters embraced and adopted our dogs in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, and the greater NY tri-state area with great compassion, giving them thriving new lives!

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support not only fuels our daily operations but also bolsters our spirits and helps save previous lives. You remind us that we can overcome challenges and create lasting changes in Korea and globally. Thank for building a kinder community through adoption.

With heartfelt thanks and

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gina Kim-Sadiku (Boehler)'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gina Kim-Sadiku (Boehler)
Founder & Executive Director
of Korean K9 Rescue



VIP ADOPTIONS OF 2023

JANUARY



MILLIE

In 2022, Millie, a severely abused stray in Nonsan, Korea was rescued by our partners Youumbaa and they provided her with medical treatment following burns inflicted by boiling water cruelly poured on her. KK9R in Korea then took Millie into their care, facilitating her rehabilitation and adoption into a loving home. We're delighted to report that Millie was successfully adopted and is thriving, marking a heartwarming conclusion to her recovery journey. Follow [@millie_thebkgirl](#)

[VIEW MILLIE'S STORY](#)

JULY



MILLA

Milla, a 2-year-old female Korean Dosa/Jindo mix weighing 65 pounds, was rescued from a dog slaughterhouse in Goyang City, Korea before being trained for 1.5 years by KK9R Korea in Bundang. After rehabilitation Milla was finally able to make her her journey to NYC. From there we helped her find a loving forever family in Massachusetts where she could finally live happy and free. Pic credit [@thedogist](#)

[VIEW MILLA'S STORY](#)

AUGUST



BUDDY

Sometimes it takes our senior crew a little longer to find their forever homes, but it always worth the wait! Buddy is a ten year old mini Jindo Mix who became the star of our Foster to Adopt program in 2023. It took him a while to warm up to people, so the foster period was crucial in allowing him to feel comfortable in any home. After a long four months, our boy found a patient and loving forever home in the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

[VIEW BUDDY'S STORY](#)

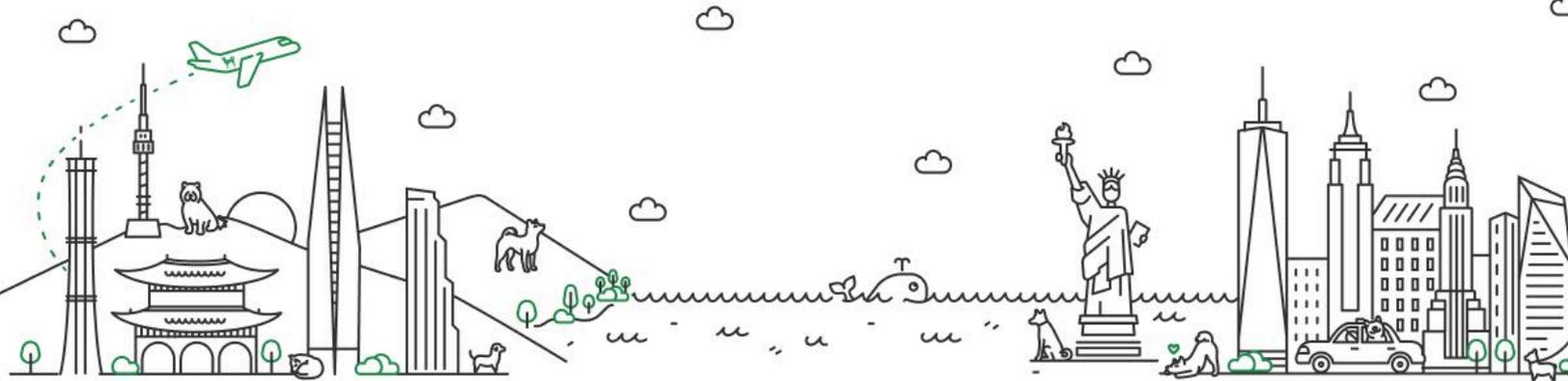


2023 INTAKE AND OUTCOME

Month	Intake	Adoptions
January	33	39
February	26	24
March	32	24
April	19	27
May	23	27
June	27	30
July	21	27
August	21	22
September	28	25
October	29	26
November	23	28
December	17	23

Total Intake 299 Dogs

TOTAL ADOPTIONS 322 DOGS



RESCUE MISSIONS IN 2023

BY KK9R IN KOREA



SAVED 53 INSIDE HOARDER HOUSE

📍 GWANGJU, KOREA - JANUARY

After our rescue partner, received reports of an elderly woman and her paralyzed husband keeping 53 dogs in their tiny home, ridden with trash, team KK9R in Korea, couldn't help but to step in. After much negotiation and reasoning with the elderly couple, they were able to save all 53 souls, and shared the rescue efforts with other rescue partners. They also contacted local social services to make sure the couple was taken care of with dignity as well.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



[VIEW THE STORY](#)



31 DOGS SAVED FROM ILLEGAL PUPPY MILL

📍 NAMYANGJU, KOREA - MAY

With combined efforts from rescue partners KK9R in Korea managed to shut down an illegal puppy mill. Despite the puppy mill owners efforts to conceal most of the dogs, the team found them hidden in a neighbor's home and rescued them all. Team KK9R also destroyed the cages so the puppy mill could not continue. 31 dogs were all saved and adopted to loving homes in NYC.



SHUTDOWN SLAUGHTERHOUSE

📍 SIHEUNG, KOREA - JUNE

In collaboration with another rescue partner, KK9R in Korea shut down the Siheung dog slaughterhouse, a notorious hub for illegal dog meat distribution in Korea. Tragically, three dogs were found dead by the raid, while 24 survivors bore witness to unspeakable brutality, awaiting their turn to gruesome slaughter. After the rescue, our focus shifted to ensuring accountability for the butcher through prosecution and providing extensive care and rehabilitation for these traumatized animals. Towards the end of the year and into the new, we witnessed our survivors start to find loving forever homes in NYC.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



RESCUED ZOMBIE DOGS

📍 PAJU CITY, KOREA - JUNE

On June 5th, team KK9R in Korea uncovered a dire situation: over 50 dogs living in squalor, infected with parasites, while an elderly woman struggled to care for them alone. Despite rescue efforts, it took Paju City 12 days to relocate the elderly woman, leaving these dogs, dubbed "Zombie Dogs," because of their horrible skin condition. KK9R in Korea rescued 17 of them, but their contagious skin conditions posed challenges and significant costs to provide proper care. Eventually all dogs went to rescue and the elderly woman went to assisted living.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



SHUT DOWN PUPPY MILL

📍 BORYEONG, KOREA - AUGUST

Over 500 dogs were saved with the help of KK9R in Korea's rescue partners from the horrible abuse of an illegal breeder in Boryeong city. With this rescue mission, it was uncovered that the Oriental Dog Auction House provided support and revenue to horrendous puppy mill breeders in the area. KK9R in Korea and its partners saved every dog from this mill. They also ensured the puppy mill was demolished.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



LARGEST ILLEGAL PUPPYMILL SHUTDOWN IN SOUTH KOREA

📍 HWAESONG, KOREA - SEPTEMBER

1,426 lives. That's how many precious lives were saved from Korea's largest puppy mill to be shut down in history. KK9R in Korea found bodies kept in freezers, wrapped in newspaper, tossed aside and abandoned; a scene made of pure horror. It took a large team effort with support from 20 additional rescue groups and in collaboration with Governor Kim Dong-yeon of Gyeonggi-do [@kimdongyeon_dy](#). This historic mission was executed in 48 hours on Sept 1, 2023 and will remain etched in our hearts forever. The sheer number of suffering mothers and fathers who needed our help changed theirs and our lives forever. Over 60 of these dogs found forever homes in the NYC area shortly after rescue.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



RESCUE OF 11 TOSA INUS FROM THE DOG MEAT TRADE

📍 SEJONG CITY, KOREA - NOVEMBER

In the last week of November, Korean dog meat farmers dumped 11 Tosa Inus, crammed into small cages, in front of the Sejong City Assembly. This cruel act was a protest against new legislation aimed at banning the dog meat trade in Korea. As the fight for this legislation began, our Korean K9 Rescue team in Korea couldn't ignore these dogs, who were being used as political pawns. The dogs were taken to the Sejong City shelter, where they were left chained, sick, scared, and alone. Witnessing their suffering, our team, along with our partners, acted swiftly to secure their release. All 11 Tosas are now safe and are undergoing training and rehabilitation. We are working towards finding each of them a loving home.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



ACTIVISM IN 2023



CALL FOR ACTION TO END MORAN DOG MEAT MARKET

SEONGNAM-SI, KOREA - AUGUST

In our ongoing efforts to advocate for the welfare of animals, we have witnessed continued challenges in closing Moran Dog Meat Market and ending dog consumption. Despite promises made by the Livestock Innovation Cooperative, subsidized for five years, they have broken their commitment and engaged in illegal activities, disregarding citizen protests against the slaughter. Authorities have shown passivity, merely notifying the cooperative head about subsidy removal. Shockingly, our taxes, intended to prevent dog slaughter, have been misused to transport and illegally slaughter dog corpses. Our demands include disbanding the Livestock Innovation Cooperative, holding perpetrators accountable, revoking all subsidies and banning dog corpse distribution in Moran Market by Gyeonggi Province and Seongnam City, and ultimately, a nationwide ban on dog consumption by the South Korean Government.

We were joined by over 500 citizens and 23 other animal rescue groups as we rallied and marched against the Moran Dog Meat Market. "End the dog meat trade!" filled the streets of Seongnam City for hours accompanied by banners and signs urging the government to do their part.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)

[MORE INFO ABOUT THE EVENT](#)



PROTEST AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING TO END DOG MEAT TRADE

📍 SEOUL, KOREA - OCTOBER

In October, we joined a significant protest at the National Assembly Building in Seoul, South Korea, to end the dog meat trade. Accompanied by 27 rescue groups and over 500 citizens, we utilized Instagram Live to broadcast the event, reaching a broader audience and amplifying our message. Through peaceful demonstration, we voiced opposition to the inhumane practice and advocated for compassion towards animals. We remain dedicated to collaborating with others until every animal is treated with the dignity they deserve.



PROTEST THE ORIENTAL DOG AUCTION HOUSE

📍 YU-SEONG, KOREA

Joined by [@Youumbba](#), [@animal kara](#), and [@kdsrescue](#), we raised our voices against the inhumane acts of Puppy mills. By only showing the public “sale-ready” animals, Puppy mills in Yu-seong are concealing the horrible conditions most of their dogs are kept in. We stand against the cruelty of puppy mills and will continue to fight for those without a voice.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



DOG MEAT BAN FINALLY PROPOSED

📍 SOUTH KOREA

The moment we've all been waiting for has finally hit the council. The South Korean government has strategized for substantial change, such as removing canines from the livestock category and imposing penalties for any illegal activities involving dog meat. By 2024, dog meat trade entities must submit a detailed plan on their closing of operations gearing up for a complete ban on new farms and slaughterhouses in 2027. We have a long three years ahead of this, but this law is a monumental change in protecting millions of dog lives. The world is watching and waiting for change.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



FUNDRAISING AND MEDIA IN 2023



RECEIVED THE PETCO LOVE GRANT

COURTESY OF  **petco love**
A NONPROFIT CHANGING LIVES

Our rescue was awarded a \$25k grant through [@PetcoLove Stories](#), chosen from over 20k submissions. Special thanks to Laura Tuccillo and her KK9R Alumnus, Boggy, whose touching story captivated hearts and honored Laura's father, Joe Tuccillo. We're grateful to our KK9R alumni for their ongoing support, and to Petco Love for their dedication to saving animal lives through life-saving grants nationwide. Thank you to all Petco Love employees and supporters for making this possible!

[VIEW THE STORY](#)

MIDSUMMER PARTY RAISED OVER \$50K

JULY 29TH - FARM TO PEOPLE

Our raffle and midsummer party was a resounding success, raising nearly \$25k thanks to the spirited participation of our community. With the support of generous matching donor and over 200 attendees, we raised over \$50k. This raffle and party supported our Critical Care Fund and Siheung Slaughterhouse Survivors. We kept cool with over 200 friends having a great time with support from our supporters and sponsors!

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



FEATURED ON YOUTUBE

SPOTLIGHT BY



In March 2023, [@sbsanimal](#) Animal Farm captured the heart of our mission at the KK9 Adoption Center in Bundang. With special thanks to actor [@yoo yeonseok](#) for his dedication and to our passionate team, this feature shares our daily efforts to improve the lives of rescue dogs. Witness the journey of transformation and advocacy on SBS YouTube or with an SBS subscription!

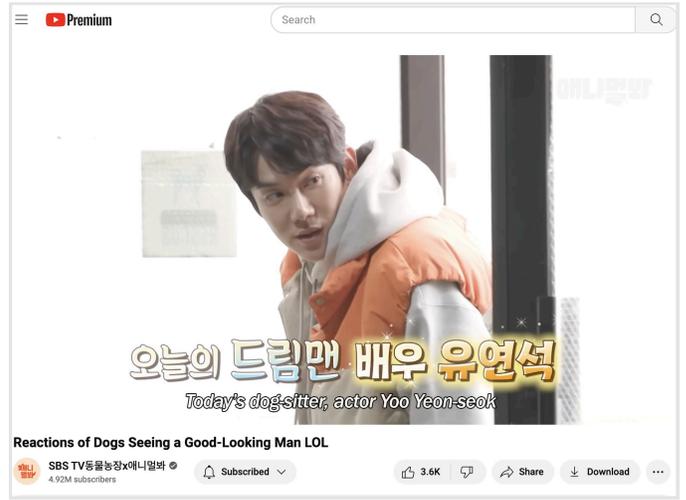
[VIEW THE STORY](#)

HOWL-O-WEEN PARTY AND SUNDAY SCARIES STRUT PARADE RAISES OVER \$9K

FOR CRITICAL CARE FUND

Our 7th Annual Howl-o-ween party was hosted at alumni-owned [@os_newyorkcity](#) and despite the rain turned out to be a great success for our Critical Care Fund! Many of our generous sponsors pitched in to make the event memorable and fun and we raised our voices in our strut through Sara D. Roosevelt Park to end the dog meat trade in South Korea. All the pups and guardians looked amazing, we had 64 contestants enter in our annual costume contest.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



CHRISTMAS IN BUNDANG

📍 BUNDANG, KOREA

In collaboration with seven of our esteemed rescue partners in South Korea, we embarked on a project to produce a compelling film showcasing our collective efforts, dedicated team, state-of-the-art rescue center, and the stories of over 160 rescue dogs under our care. Our supporters played a pivotal role in this endeavor by contributing to our fundraising efforts through the purchase of tickets for an exclusive early release viewing of the film on YouTube. We raised over \$12,000 for our cause!



THE WILDEST FEATURES KOREAN K9 RESCUE'S JOURNEY AND IMPACT

SPOTLIGHT BY



A heartfelt thank you to [@TheWildest](#) for featuring our founder, Gina Boehler, and the impactful story of Korean K9 Rescue! She established Korean K9 Rescue in 2017 and talks about the origins and what inspired her to rescue so many dogs from dire situations and give them a fighting chance. [Read the full article](#)

[VIEW THE STORY](#)

☰ **The Wildest** SIGN UP

TO THE RESCUE

How Korean K9 Gives Dogs Rescued From the Meat Trade a Second Shot at Life

The rescue's founder, Gina Boehler, on her mission to help these pups start over.

BY T. KENT JONES
MARCH 14, 2023



VIEW THE STORY



DARKNESS TO LIGHT: A RESCUE MISSION THAT CHANGED LIVES

SPOTLIGHT BY



In July, our team uncovered harrowing realities in a recent mission, prompting a rescue raid intervention spotlighted by SBS Animal. We confronted a brutal dog butcher in Siheung, whose covert operations were exposed through diligent surveillance by our partners at Animal KARA. This led to a daring rescue by our Korean K9 Rescue and KARA teams, revealing violations against Korea's Animal Protection Act.

Our brave CEO in Korea faced legal challenges that are still ongoing, highlighting her courage and bravery. The journey for the 20+ rescued dogs begins as they recover from severe health conditions, including parvo. Our team has rehabilitated all the dogs and adopted almost all of them into loving forever homes in the US! Only a few more remain at our center, and they will arrive in the US after more rehab.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON HOPE: FEATURED OUR RESCUE EFFORTS

WITH **cheddar**

A heartfelt thank you to Cheddar for interviewing our founder, Gina Boehler, showcasing one of our charming adoptables, Rene (who got adopted shortly after that). Their coverage plays a vital role in raising awareness about our mission. Friends in New York City and Los Angeles, join us at our weekend adoption events to meet our delightful dogs seeking forever homes. Your visit could lead you to your new furry best friend!

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



TRANSFORMING LIVES: A DOCUMENTARY FEATURE NO BAD DOGS

WITH **EBS** 

In a heartwarming collaboration with EBS, a renowned public broadcasting company, we had the unique opportunity to showcase the profound impact of our mission at Korean K9 Rescue. Our rescue center in Bundang, Korea, served as the backdrop for an inspiring documentary that highlights our dedication to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming dogs.

Since our establishment in 2018, Korean K9 Rescue has successfully guided thousands of dogs on their transformative journey to loving forever homes in the United States. This documentary captures the essence of our work and the significant strides we've made in the welfare of these animals. The film provides an intimate look at the resilience and recovery of dogs who have endured severe trauma and adversity.

We sincerely thank our compassionate adopters, including [@millie_thebkgirl](#) from New York and [@ravi_thelowrider](#) from Boston. Their willingness to open their homes and hearts to our rescued dogs enriches their lives and fuels our commitment to continue this vital work.

[VIEW THE STORY](#)



FINAL REPORT

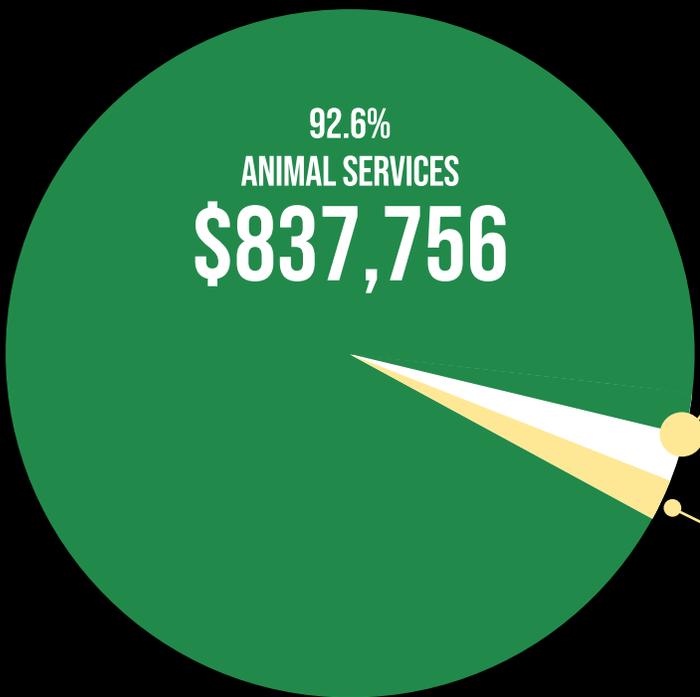
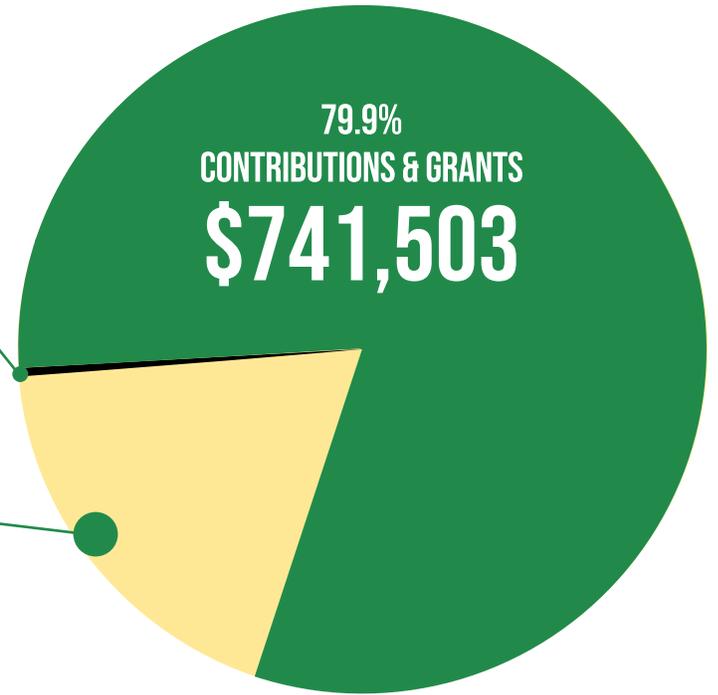


FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

TOTAL REVENUE
\$927,762

0.1%
OTHER INCOME
\$346

20%
ADOPTION FEES
\$185,914



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$904,485

ENDING NET ASSETS
\$397,624



2024 PRIORITIES



LOOKING AHEAD: 2024 PRIORITIES

- Expanding our adoption network by extending the adoption radius to 150 miles and strengthening our Foster-to-Adopt program, particularly for Jindos, larger breeds, and other dogs that are harder to place.
- Building capacity for lifesaving care by increasing the Critical Care Fund to ensure direct emergency medical support for dogs rescued from puppy mills, slaughterhouses, and crises.
- Laying the foundation for the Bundang Veterinary Hospital, including dedicated fundraising initiatives to support spay/neuter surgeries and expanded medical care.
- Expanding donor and alumni engagement, offering new programs that strengthen our community of adopters and supporters.
- Piloting enhancements to the Big Dog Project, with stipends and training support designed to increase successful placements of larger dogs.
- Pursuing additional state registrations (e.g., California) to expand our reach and fundraising capabilities beyond New York.



TEAM AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF SUPPORTERS

Big thanks to our Fosters, Volunteers, Trainers, Alumni, Sponsors and Supporters!

Our Partners:



Our Board Members:

- Gina Boehler
- Tina Castelino
- Jung Kim
- Andrew Glancy
- Lily Estabrook
- Mike Wray
- Susan Law
- Vicki Williams
- Rhonda Rampares

Our Foundations:

- The Glancy Foundation
- Taco and Barney Foundation
- Longfield Family Charitable Foundation
- Cho Family Fund
- Select Equity Group Foundation
- The Salem and Annabel Jacoff Foundation
- Kirkland and Ellis Foundation
- Fifth Generation, Inc.
- Petco Foundation
- Square Up (Block Inc.)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Bloomberg Foundation





KK9R ALUMNI



Photo credit: Jen Hillenga (The Ways of the Dog) and Andrea Castanon (Bowie Shoots)



**KOREAN K9
RESCUE**

2023